



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson**

**Tuesday, June 4, 2013**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### REGULAR MEETING

#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Somers.*

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

*Also present were Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Justin Timberlake.*

#### **III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

##### **2013-0134 Proclamation Honoring Alice Fitzpatrick**

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Schmidt.*

#### **IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Matthew Longino, 350 Gales Ferry Road, stated that he is a member of the new ad hoc committee to promote Groton's motto as Submarine Capital of the World." He requested the words Submarine Capital of the World"be added to the bottom of all Town mailings, documents, and correspondence.*

#### **V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Mayor Somers noted that the committee's goal is to enhance Groton's relationship with military personnel, and announced that Betsy Gibson will be the Chairman of the committee. Mayor Somers clarified that the request is to add a flag line"or motto to the bottom of documents to reinforce that Groton is the Submarine Capital of the World.*

*Mr. Longino showed the Council an older version of Town letterhead that said "Birthplace of the Nautilus"along the bottom edge.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti stated that the post office used a unique postmark to celebrate Groton's Tercentennial Anniversary. The committee may want to explore that avenue as well.*

#### **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **a. Approval of Minutes**

##### **2013-0153 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

##### **RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 21, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

**b. Administrative Items**

**2013-0141 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:  
Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2013-0048 FYE 2014 Budget**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

**2013-0090 Judson Avenue Drainage Project**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

**2013-0122 Battle of Mystic Battlefield Project Update by Kevin McBride**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

**2013-0147 Bailey Hill Open Space Temporary Easement**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

**2013-0148 Mystic River Residential Care Request for Economic Assistance**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Morton, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilors received correspondence regarding commercial personal property reporting and the addition of a hot dog cart in downtown Mystic.*

*Councilor Morton and Councilor Schmidt attended the Coast Guard Academy graduation.*

*Councilor Flax and Mayor Somers attended the Freeman's Meeting at which the City of Groton's annual budget was adopted.*

*Councilor Streeter attended the Submarine Veterans' Memorial Day Ceremony, a meeting to promote Groton as the Submarine Capital of the World, and a veterans' memorial program meeting.*

*Councilor Watson participated in a walk through the Sparkle Lake property.*

*Mayor Somers attended the Noank Memorial Day Parade, the Change of Command Ceremony at the SubBase, a Salute to Veterans' ceremony sponsored by Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, and an Education Breakfast by the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor noted that the Town will delay putting on a new school roof for one year to take advantage of recent legislation. This delay will save the Town \$300,000. Mayor Somers reminded Town officials and Town employees that they have the opportunity to participate in a baseball game against the Mystic Schooners on June 17th. Anyone who is interested should contact the Town Clerk.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The next regular RTM meeting will be held on June 12, 2013.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Town Clerk reminded citizens to renew their dog licenses in June, and noted that the Town Clerk's Office also sells shellfish and fishing licenses. She attended a Rotary Club meeting.*

**d. Town Manager**

*No report.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman Morton**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax**

*The Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee met just prior to this meeting. Minutes will be furnished at the next regular Town Council meeting.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers**

*The resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**2013-0147 Bailey Hill Open Space Temporary Easement**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT ACROSS TOWN OF GROTON OPEN SPACE ON MILITARY HIGHWAY

WHEREAS, Mr. David Reagan, owner of a parcel on Military Highway (PIN 178017211326) is proposing site improvements and construction of a new single-family home on the undeveloped parcel, and

WHEREAS, the undeveloped parcel contains extreme topographic slopes and lacks available access from Military Highway for the initial phases of construction, and

WHEREAS, the parcel is adjacent to Town-owned open space (PIN 178017212507E) that contains

an abandoned gravel driveway remnant, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reagan has requested a 50' x 50' temporary access easement across the Town-owned open space granting rights to maintain and use a temporary gravel driveway with rights to pass and re-pass for construction-related vehicles and equipment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a temporary access easement over the Town-owned parcel (PIN 178017212507E) in favor of Mr. Reagan's parcel (PIN 178017211326) subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The easement shall terminate one year after the date of approval by the Town Council.
- 2) Mr. Reagan shall indemnify and hold harmless the Town for any damages to persons or property from his activities on the Town property.
- 3) Mr. Reagan shall provide liability insurance with the Town named as additionally insured.
- 4) No vehicles or construction equipment shall be parked and no construction materials stockpiled on the Town property.
- 5) An excavation permit is required from Public Works prior to use of the easement.
- 6) A cash bond in the amount of \$25,000 shall be posted and shall be held by the Town until the easement area is restored and stable as determined by Parks Maintenance.

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2013-0148**

**Mystic River Residential Care Request for Economic Assistance**

**RESOLUTION SCHEDULING GODFREY STREET REPAVING IN CALENDAR YEAR 2014 TO COORDINATE WITH MYSTIC RIVER RESIDENTIAL CARE DRAINAGE INSTALLATION**

WHEREAS, Mystic River Residential Care on Godfrey Street in Mystic as part of site plan approval for redevelopment is required to install drainage in Godfrey Street in order to control runoff from the site, and

WHEREAS, the drainage improvements will provide an overall benefit to the street which currently lacks a formal drainage system, and

WHEREAS, the owner of Mystic River Residential Care has indicated that the cost to repair/repave the road following the installation of the necessary drainage improvements threatens the financial limits of the project, and she has requested assistance from the Town to assure that the project can move forward, and

WHEREAS, Godfrey Street is tentatively scheduled for repaving in 2015 as part of the Town's Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council directs Town staff to schedule Godfrey Street repaving for 2014 in order to coordinate with the installation of drainage improvements by Mystic River Residential Care.

**A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Suspension of the Rules**

*A motion to suspend the rules to consider a resolution to include "Submarine Capital of the World" on the Town's letterhead and to consider a resolution regarding RTM Reapportionment was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.*

**2013-0162 Town Letterhead Modification****TOWN LETTERHEAD MODIFICATION**

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2013 Mayor Somers announced her intention to form an ad hoc committee to promote Groton as the "Submarine Capital of the World" and to promote a welcoming atmosphere for the Town's veterans and active military personnel, and

WHEREAS, wherever possible the Town should promote the military and be proud that it is the "Submarine Capital of the World", and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council to utilize the words "Submarine Capital of the World" as a branding tag line wherever possible, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the phrase "Submarine Capital of the World" will be added to the bottom of the page on all Town letterhead.

**A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman noted that various departments have different formats for letterhead. There is not one standardized template throughout the Town.*

*Matt Morton, 67 Mariners Lane, Mystic, stated that years ago Town stationary had Birthplace of the Nautilus printed along the bottom of the page. The same thing is being suggested, but with the words Submarine Capital of the World"*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2013-0128 RTM Reapportionment****RESOLUTION APPROVING COMPUTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING MEMBERSHIP**

WHEREAS, Section 4.2.2 of the Town Charter requires the Town Clerk to determine within sixty days after redistricting of the Town, the representation by voting district proportional to the number of electors residing in such district, and

WHEREAS, as of the redistricting, the following districts and number of electors in each district is as follows, and therefore, by computation, the number of representatives for each district is as follows,

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES
1	3,441	7
2	2,221	4
3	2,821	6
4	3,119	6
5	2,744	6
6	3,596	7
7	2,652	5
Total: 20,594	Total: 41	

Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the above membership representation is hereby approved, effective for the Town of Groton's November 2013 municipal election.

**A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Councilor Antipas noted that he sought the Town Attorney's clarification of the Town Charter regarding how to calculate RTM reapportionments. The Town Attorney stated that the language is*

*ambiguous, but the Town has always calculated RTM reapportionments by rounding down, thereby eliminating any fractions. Councilor Antipas remarked that upon further investigation he found that if fractions were used, there could be instances where the total number of RTM members would be more than 45, which would violate the Town Charter. It was decided to continue to follow past practice and round down any fractions when making reapportionment calculations.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*